

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 21-34 are currently pending in this application.

This is meant to be a complete response to the final office action mailed on August 17, 2009. The following is a disposition of the claims: Claims 1-20 are canceled and claims 21-34 have been previously presented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

In the Office Action dated August 17, 2009, the Examiner rejected claims 9-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harwell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,106,691).

Applicant respectfully submits that the above stated rejection of claims 9-17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 9-20.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 9, and thus claims 10-17 and 19-20 for depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as applicable to claims now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action dated August 17, 2009, the Examiner rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,106,691)..

Applicant respectfully submits that the above stated rejection of claims 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 9-20.

In light of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 9, and thus claim 18 for depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as applicable to claims now pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

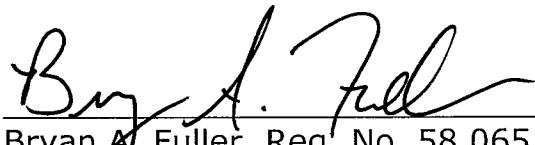
Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 21-34 and thanks the Examiner for the expeditious examination and allowance of said claim.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application, as now presented, is in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider each and every rejection as applicable to the claims pending in the application and pass such claims to an expedient issue.

The foregoing is meant to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed August 17, 2009.

In the event that any outstanding issues remain that would delay the allowance of this application, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned to telephonically discuss such outstanding issues.



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